## **CLAIMS**

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A composition for lowering serum cholesterol in human subjects wherein the composition comprise one or more components selected from the group consisting of octadecanol, eicosanol, docosanol, tetracosanol and hexacosanol, and one or more components selected from the group consisting of octadecanol, eicosanol, docosanol, tetracosanol and hexacosanol, and one or more component selected from the group consisting of beta-sitosterol, beta-sitosteryl ester of a fatty acid, beta-sitostanol, beta sitostanyl ester of a fatty acid, campesterol, campesteryl ester of a fatty acid, campestanol, campestanyl ester of fatty acid, stigmasterol, and stigmasteryl ester of a fatty acid.
- 2. The composition according to claim 1 comprising one or more food substances selected from the group consisting of edible oil, margarine, butter, salad dressing, milk and beverages.
- 3. The composition according to claim 1 comprising one or more pharmaceutically acceptable components.
- 4. The composition according to claim 3 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable components comprise binders, lubricants, stabilizers, preservatives, diluents or coating agents.

5. A method for lowering serum cholesterol in human subjects wherein the method comprise periodically administering via an oral route to said humans an effective amount of a composition comprising one or more components selected from the group consisting of octadecanol, eicosanol, docosanol, tetracosanol and hexacosanol and one or more components selected from the group consisting of octadecanol, eicosanol, docosanol, tetracosanol and hexacosanol, and one or more components selected from the group consisting of beta-sitosterol, beta-sitosteryl ester of a fatty acid, beta-sitostanol, beta sitostanyl ester of a fatty acid, campesterol, campesteryl ester of a fatty acid, campestanol, campestanyl ester of a fatty acid, stigmasterol and stigmasteryl ester of a fatty acid.

- 6. The method according to claim 5 wherein the composition comprise one or more a food substances selected from the group consisting of edible oil, margarine, butter, salad dressing, milk and beverages.
- 7. The composition according to claim 6 wherein the composition comprises one or more pharmaceutically acceptable components.
- 8. The method according to claim 7 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable components comprise binders, lubricants, stabilizers, preservatives, diluents or coating agents.

9. The method according claims 5 to 8 wherein the effective amount of the composition comprises from 0.01 to 50 mg of octadecanol, eicosanol, docosanol, tetracosanol and hexacosanol, and 0.01 to 50 mg of octadecanol, eicosanol, docosanol, tetracosanol or hexacosanol, and from 1 to 200 mg of beta-sitosterol, beta-sitosteryl ester of a fatty acid, beta-sitostanol, beta sitostanyl ester of a fatty acid, campesterol, campesteryl ester of a fatty acid, campestanol, campestanyl ester of fatty acid, stigmasterol or stigmasteryl ester of a fatty acid, per kilogram of body weight.